

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are currently pending. Claims 1, 2, 7-11, and 16-19 have been amended; and Claims 20-22 have been added by the present amendment. The changes and additions to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, regarding the phrase “said stored data” in Claims 1, 10, and 19; and Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,910,896 to Hahn-Carlson (hereinafter “the ‘896 patent”).

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1, 10, and 19. Claims 1, 10, and 19 have been amended to correct the antecedent basis question noted in the Office Action.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a physical distribution business management method, comprising: (1) an image data generation step for generating image data of a document on which a condition for exporting or importing goods is described; (2) an image data storage step for storing the image data, generated in the image data generation step, to be associated with the goods; (3) a document data storage step for storing document data described on the document, the document data to be associated with the goods; (4) an identification data storage step for storing identification data that identifies a party concerned with export or import of said goods among, in addition to a consignor and a consignee, a number of parties concerned with export or import of the goods; and (5) a data output step, for obtaining, when the party concerned specifies data relating to goods, stored data of goods to be associated with the corresponding specified data and the stored document data, and for outputting the

obtained data. Further, amended Claim 1 recites that the identification data storage step decides a range of an output enable data to the party concerned based on stored identification data, and that the data output step obtains data matching the decided range. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹

The '896 patent is directed to a computer processing system for tracking a shipment transaction involving a shipper and a carrier. As shown in Figure 1, the '896 patent discloses a central processor 40 that receives transaction information from a data processing device 34 associated with a shipper 20. The transaction information, which is listed in Table 1 of the '896 patent, is maintained by the central processor 40, which allows access to the information by the shipper 20 and the carrier 22. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '896 patent fails to disclose generating image data of a document on which a condition for exporting or importing goods is described, as recited in amended Claim 1. Rather, as shown in Figure 2, the '896 patent discloses a system that receives purchase order information, processes the purchase order information, generates shipment parameters, sends the shipping parameters to a bill of lading (BOL) rating engine 30, receives a rated BOL, and sends the rated BOL to the shipper access terminal 32. Thus, the '896 patent fails to disclose the generation of any image data of a document on which a condition for exporting or importing goods is described, as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, the '896 patent must also fail to disclose an image data storage step for storing the image data generated in the image data generation step. The '896 patent is silent regarding storing image data generated from a document on which a condition for exporting or importing goods is described. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the '896 patent fails to disclose an identification data storage step for storing identification data that identifies the party concerned with export or import of goods, among a number of parties concerned with the export or import of the

¹ See, e.g., pages 14 and 15 of the specification.

goods, in addition to a consignor and a consignee, as recited in amended Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 1 (and dependent Claims 2-9) as anticipated by the '896 patent.

Claims 10 and 19 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1. Moreover, Claims 10 and 19 have been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of independent Claims 10 and 19 (and all associated dependent claims) as anticipated by the '896 patent.

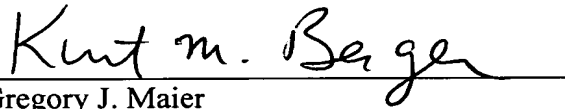
The present amendment also sets forth new independent Claims 20-22 for examination on the merits. Claims 20-22 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in independent Claim 1. Thus, new Claims 20-22 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter. Moreover, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 20-22 patentability define over the '896 patent.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 10, and 19-22 (and all associated dependent claims) patentability define over the '896 patent.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kurt m. Berger", is written over a horizontal line.

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